

What is claimed is:

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A.*
1. A method for solution-mining of a subterranean material, the method comprising:
5 injecting a fluid into an elbow well, the fluid forming a subterranean mixture with the
subterranean material; and
collecting the subterranean mixture from the elbow well.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the subterranean material comprises trona.
- 15 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising making the elbow well.
- 20 4. The method of claim 3, wherein making the elbow well comprises drilling an elbow well into
a bed comprising the subterranean material.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the method comprises casing the elbow well.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein said injecting the fluid further comprises injecting the fluid
into an injection tube located in the elbow well.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises creating a cavity, wherein the
20 cavity comprises the subterranean material.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein the cavity comprises the subterranean material mixture after
said injecting the fluid.

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9. The method of claim 1, wherein the subterranean mixture comprises a subterranean solution.
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10. The method of claim 1, wherein the fluid comprises water.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein the fluid comprises a caustic mixture.
12. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises heating the fluid.
13. The method of claim 1, wherein said collecting the subterranean mixture further comprises collecting the subterranean mixture through a production tube located in the elbow well.
14. The method of claim 1, wherein said collecting the subterranean mixture comprises pumping the subterranean mixture.
15. The method of claim 14, wherein said pumping the subterranean mixture comprises lifting the subterranean mixture through the production tube.
16. The method of claim 15, wherein the method further comprises delivering the subterranean mixture to a collection location.
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17. The method of claim 16, wherein the collection location comprises the earth's surface.

18. The method of claim 14, wherein the method further comprises placing a pump in the elbow well.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein the method occurs at ambient well pressure.

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20. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises processing the subterranean mixture after said collecting the subterranean mixture.

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21. A system for solution-mining of a subterranean material, the system comprising:
means for injecting a fluid into an elbow well, the fluid forming a subterranean mixture
with the subterranean material; and
means for collecting the subterranean mixture from the elbow well.
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22. The system of claim 21, wherein the subterranean material comprises trona.
23. The system of claim 21, further comprising means for making the elbow well.
24. The system of claim 23, wherein said means for making the elbow well comprises means for
drilling the elbow well into a bed comprising the subterranean material.
25. The system of claim 21, wherein the system comprises means for casing the elbow well.
26. The system of claim 21, wherein said means for injecting the fluid further comprises an
injection tube located in the elbow well.
27. The system of claim 21, wherein the subterranean mixture comprises a subterranean solution.
- 20 28. The system of claim 21, wherein the fluid comprises water.
29. The system of claim 21, wherein the fluid comprises a caustic mixture.

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30. The system of claim 21, wherein the system further comprises means for heating the fluid.
31. The system of claim 21, wherein said means for collecting the subterranean mixture comprises means for pumping the subterranean mixture.
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32. The system of claim 31, wherein the system further comprises means for placing a pump in the elbow well.
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33. The system of claim 31, wherein the system further comprises means for delivering the subterranean mixture to a collection location.
34. The system of claim 33, wherein the collection location comprises the earth's surface.
35. The system of claim 21, wherein the system occurs at ambient well pressure.
36. The system of claim 21, wherein the system further comprises means for processing the subterranean mixture after said means for collecting the subterranean mixture.

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37. An apparatus for solution-mining of a subterranean material, the apparatus comprising:
an injection tube, wherein the injection tube has an injection tube inner diameter of
sufficient size to allow for injection of a fluid for mining of a subterranean
material; and
5 a production casing, wherein the production casing has a production casing inner
diameter of sufficient size to allow for production of a subterranean mixture of the
fluid and the subterranean material between an outer surface of the injection tube
and an inner surface of the production casing.
38. The apparatus of claim 37, further comprising a production tube for collecting the
subterranean mixture.
39. The apparatus of claim 38, further comprising a pump connected to the production tube.